

Remarks:

Responsive to the Official Action mailed January 13, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, reexamination and allowance of claims 1-9 in view of the following remarks.

Examiner Nguyen has first rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph in that the term continuous was not described in the specification. Although Applicant strenuously disagrees with the Examiner, Application has deleted this term from claims 1 and 6 in order to avoid disagreement over semantics. It is applicant's position that because the winder arm is biased onto the strap path, by necessity, it will remain in continuous contact with the winder peripheral strap path.

Next, Examiner Nguyen has continued his rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over Annis, U.S. Patent No. 4,605,456. The Examiner's position is that the claimed invention (which is directed to among other things, the winder remaining in contact with the winder peripheral strap path as the winder rotates) is disclosed in Annis and that the roller of Annis remains in contact with the strap path. (that is, that the roller does not ride on a lip or edge of the winder).

Applicant has amended the claims to indicate that the winder a split, biased, non-detented rotating winder. A review of FIG. 3 shows the spring (residing on the front of the winder) and a circular, non-detented or dimpled winder profile. This is not the structure that is disclosed in Annis, which shows a non-biased winder that has detents or dimples formed therein.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-9 are allowable over the art of record and in condition for allowance and respectfully and earnestly solicits early indication of same.

Applicant submits that no fee is due in connection with the present AMENDMENT C. If, however, there is a fee due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2035. Should any petitions be necessary, it is respectfully requested that the present paper constitute any such necessary petition.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution and allowance of the present application, or address any outstanding formal issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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